

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the Meeting

Date, Time, Place: December 6, 2006, 10:30 a.m.
Mission Memorial Building Planning Conference Room
550 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Voting Members Present:

Catholic Charities Hawaii: Tom Baty
Hawaii Disability Rights Center: Ann Collins
Ho'opono: Sam Fisk
Easter Seals Hawaii: Linda Guess
Lanakila Rehabilitation Center: Dawn Burgener, Florence
Calderon
Hawaii Association for Adult Day Services: Helen Myers

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Department of Transportation Services: James Burke, Eileen
Mark, Scott Ishiyama, Tony Talat, Jackie Shen
Oahu Transit Services, Inc.: Patricia Nielsen, John Black
Disability and Communication Access Board: Judy Paik
Honolulu Committee on Aging (EAD): Doug Gilman
Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization: Marian Yasuda

Voting Member Excused:

Kokua Program, U.H. at Manoa: Ann Ito

Voting Members Unexcused:

Hawaii Centers for Independent Living: Phillip Ana

Ex-Officio Members Unexcused:

Department of Health: Wilfred Young

Chair Baty called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

1. Approval of Minutes

H. Meyers moved to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2006 meeting, with corrections. Corrections: (1) Correcting the spelling of the last name of D. Burgener; (2) Inclusion of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center's (HDRC) comments on the proposed cost increase for advertising inside City transit buses. A. Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Follow-up on the recruitment of CAT At-Large Member

J. Shen reported that the "Solicitation for Non-Governmental Member of the Committee for Accessible Transportation" was published in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* on September 27, 2006 and October 1, 2006. The only applicant to submit a written statement of qualifications withdrew due to health problems.

Chair Baty asked if DTS would consider putting out the advertisement again. E. Mark said that DTS welcomes ideas from the CAT to fill the position. Chair Baty called upon CAT members to encourage qualified individuals to apply. Information from CAT regarding this recruitment can be sent to J. Shen.

3. Follow-up on "Proposed Rule Changes for Advertising inside City Transit Buses"

Chair Baty asked if there is any follow-up on the proposed rule changes. E. Mark said that DTS staff will check, and will apprise the CAT if there is more information. Any rule changes could take up to about 4 months to go into effect due to requirements for a public hearing, amendments, publication and forwarding to the City Clerk. A. Collins requested an acknowledgement of her email comments sent to DTS.

4. Report and Discussion on "Human Service Transportation Coordination Workshop"

Chair Baty reported on the "Human Service Transportation Coordination Workshop" which was held on 11/30/06. He explained that the workshop was to promote the teamwork among human

service agencies that also provide transportation services in Honolulu. One idea was the creation of a universal dispatch system, including a successful example from Pittsburgh. Other suggestions included joint vehicle and fuel purchases, and lobbying for a fuel tax break or exemption. The consultant suggested that the workshop attendees continue developing these ideas as a group. Chair Baty asked whether the CAT should play a role on some of the items discussed.

A. Collins commented that she is pleased with the City's ongoing ADA compliance efforts, but would like to know the City's timeframe for implementation of the plan.

J. Burke explained that the City is initiating a local coordination effort through the Workshop, although it is unclear who will eventually lead the creation of a coordination plan for Oahu. The majority of Federal human service transportation monies go to State agencies.

Challenges to coordination were identified, including:

- "Turfism"
- High subscription levels on TheHandi-Van
- Limited service areas of other transportation providers, such as Easter Seals
- Rapid ridership growth without commensurate funding increases
- Restrictions on funding source usage, both capital and operating

J. Burke explained that since the City and State have already submitted new biennial budget proposals, the CAT may want to approach the State Legislature about rising transportation costs and other related issues. He proposed a CAT sub-committee to pursue further coordination efforts. Agencies outside the CAT would also be welcomed, and the sub-committee would present its recommendations to the CAT. DTS staff can help draft Bills, and can provide copies of the paratransit study consultant's report. The United We Ride website (www.unitedweride.org) was mentioned as a resource.

H. Meyers moved to establish a sub-committee to explore human services transportation coordination opportunities and make recommendations for CAT action. L. Guess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

T. Baty, H. Meyers, S. Ishiyama, J. Black or P. Nielsen from OTS, F. Calderon will be on the Sub-Committee. L. Guess may be able to join the Sub-Committee if the report is received in January. T. Baty will set up the first meeting in early January 2007.

5. Next CAT Meeting Date

The next CAT meeting was tentatively set for March 7th, 2007, with the meeting date, place and time to be confirmed by DTS staff. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.